

The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 44 Summer 2014

Hello and welcome to the Summer edition of Kearsney Kapers.

We start off this edition with our AGM which was held in May, There were no proposals put forward to change anything this time and no members put themselves forward for election to any of the committee positions.

As a result, the current committee members were re-elected on mass to serve another term as officers of the club. The new committee thank the membership for their support.

In May, our storage garage shed in the English Landscapes compound was entered into illegally. We were not broken into because the keys were taken from the park keepers rest room which 'was' broken into. The only thing that we lost was the portable generator. This piece of equipment had been stored in the shed for the same reason that we allowed the park keeper's to store their items in, namely to isolate petrol powered tools from other equipment for health and safety reasons. They had a petrol strimmer and leaf blower inside and these were both taken.

Our insurance excess suggests that it would not be viable to make a claim as we could buy another generator for less than the excess. As the keys were taken from English landscapes, we hoped that their insurance would cover the loss but after contacting them, they stated their excess was also very high and consequently only stored second-hand equipment in our store.

As a result, we have changed our locks and have stopped offering our store to English Landscapes, a lesson learned!

Our regatta season for the power boats is now over and reports on all these can be found on page four onwards. The club has also attended many outside events this year, we have had members travel to the Alfold Show in Surrey for a two day event, and the Biggin Hill Air Show which was a first for us. We attended the Sumner's Pond show at Horsham where this newish event is becoming popular and is now in it's second year. The Walmer ATC event that we attended last year had moved to another venue in Mongeham, we went along again to support them.

So all in all we have had a busy few months, it seems to be the trend lately that we get invited to support other clubs in our area and this is becoming more popular as the years go by, it is of course all good for us in the MBA.

A group of members repaired the garage store in July, the rotten woodwork has been replaced with new plastic section material which will now not need any further maintenance. Doing this type of work ourselves saves the club a considerable amount of money, the club has many trades that can be called upon and we thank all our members for their help when this work is needed.

There are still several events that we are looking forward to attending before the end of this season, we hope everyone will continue to enjoy sailing with us and maybe attending these shows which are great fun.

Happy boating Alan.

An incident in the park one Sunday morning.



This tug had a radio range problem and drifted into the yacht race course, luckily the turn buoy was not obstructed, sorry chaps!
The tug is owned by Adrian Knight and is fitted with a “Steammaster” smoke generator. Everyone told Adrian that the unit was out of production and no spares or information was available.
Adrian needed help and found the company still trading and very much alive on the internet.
So if anyone has this unit, and needs help, the website is
steammaster27@btinternet.com
Please Note

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The club committee has been approached by the yacht representative who has asked that a further notice be issued regarding powerboats getting in the way of sailing boats when they are racing. We are not saying that powerboats cannot operate when a yacht race is in progress, we are simply asking that all modellers respect the yachts needs. The yachts do need room to manoeuvre and having to avoid a powerboat, does cause some friction. Thank you all..



The Newhaven boat is a “Severn class” type of lifeboat which is the same as the Dover lifeboat.
Another Severn, on passage to the Humber, was spotted at Dover on Aug 28th.
She is “The Will “17-02

Newhaven lifeboat rescued this yacht during our visit to the station in July.



In the early days of our club, this model was in use many times attending regattas and outside events such as the Chislet fairs, Grove Ferry fairs and the Olympia Model Engineer show. It was then retired and put into the Museum at St Margaret’s where it stayed until last year when it again returned to my dockyard. (garage). Since then I have used it in displays with Kim under the banner of the Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society, (another branch of the MBA Dover !!)

The model is the **Poole lifeboat 33-07**, she was one of the Brede Class of boats, now all sold out of service with the RNLI, this boat is now in service in South Africa!



The hull and superstructure is a fibreglass moulding by Westward Mouldings, everything else scratch built. She is powered by twin 545 type electric motors with twin speed controllers, this set up makes her extremely manoeuvrable when coupled to the Futaba F14 that has a Navy twin stick system fitted.
Navigation lights and deck lighting work as does the blue emergency beacon. The model is 1/12th scale which comes out at a very easy to handle 33 inches overall. Owned and built by your Secretary Alan.....

Interesting ships in our area

This vessel was obviously an ex military ship, a little research on Google showed her to be the **Horten**, an Ex Royal Norwegian navy support vessel which had the role of fast attack craft and submarine support, sold out of service to Cas Global , a risk management company specialising in the offshore industry.

She is 2,800 tons and was noted to be registered in Lagos, the vessel was spotted moored on the ferry berth in Ramsgate in March.



HMS Blazer

Also seen in Ramsgate harbour in March was the Royal Naval vessel HMS Blazer, a P20 coastal training craft. If she looks familiar it is because Kelvin Castle has built a model of this class of vessel which we regularly see at Kearsney.



The Type 23 frigate **HMS Lancaster** was on a three day courtesy visit to Dover in April. She participated in the 70th anniversary of HMS Cavalier's launch which was held at Chatham.

HMS Lancaster was open to the public and being half way through a model of a sister ship, I naturally went on board and took a few more pictures to add to my research. Fleetscale mouldings do a 1/96th scale hull and deck moulding for the Type 23 and also have some Fittings available. I understand a 1/72nd version is now also produced which would be an impressive model, older members will remember the 1/36 version that Maidstone Cygnets have.



Hiding in a corner of Wellington dock in Dover was the ex Arun class lifeboat "Maximus". Now all in private hands these boats were of course Ex RNLI boats. These lifeboats were well liked and successful boats in the RNLI, they are still used as lifeboats in some other countries as well as being used for survey type duties here in the UK. This boat was the Ex, **Sir Max Aitken 52-17**

April 20th Regatta

On our first regatta for 2014, we made an early start to set up the compound before the forecasted rain arrived, when it did come, the gazebo's sheltered the members well as it really did drop, at one point we nearly cancelled but eventually decided to carry on regardless. The date chosen was Easter Sunday, because of this and the weather forecast, there were less members attending than usual but we had a good regatta anyway and all the competitions were completed by dodging the showers. The yacht racing did not take place due to insufficient numbers this time which was unfortunate but the powerboats put on a good show, some new models were on the water and these included some novelty models. Chris West had a "Henry" the hoover floating around which was very amusing. Kelvin Castle had been busy converting a teddy bear to make it swim, this conversion consisted of fitting independent motors which controlled its arms that were now paddles. This little bear swimming on its back was also very amusing and both of these models will be a hit I am sure with children when they view them. Neil Terry had his fleet on display, Neil has obtained some warship models and had spent the winter doing them up, he had a large model corvette and a model of HMS Wolverton. I remembered the Wolverton because it was a plan that was featured in the 1950's Model Maker magazine and was built in tinplate, this one was made from wood though. A very fast offshore racing boat was operated but because our water is not suitable for such craft it was not run for long, it is a beautifully prepared and painted model nevertheless and drew admiring glances from youngsters when on the tables. Len Ochiltree had made some modifications to the harbour and this was assembled and used as part of the steering and other competition courses, we now have tower cranes and buildings that include gas tanks on the jetties.

Although the yacht race did not happen there were yachts sailing and one yacht built by Dan House was different, He had obtained a large beamy hull with a moulded in keel, Dan sliced it down the centreline and removed about five inches of beam, this took away the keel which was replaced with a smaller keel and bulb weight. The length of the boat was cut from 46 inches to 36 inches, all this was to conform to the 36R rating for model yachts. The sails were made from a discarded fishing umbrella found in a local skip! The model actually sails very well and this does show what can be achieved with relatively cheap or free materials, a very impressive project.

During the afternoon we had a visit from an MMI (Marine Modelling International) photographer, he discovered that the MBA were having a regatta and popped along to see us, it might never get to be published but it was nice to see him, he is a freelance journalist and was not actually commissioned to do an article about us.

As usually happens, when we were about to pack away the weather improved but we did pack up earlier anyway this time because it was Easter.

May 18th Regatta

Wall to wall sunshine and the hottest day of the year made this regatta a memorable one.

Several members turned up really early to set up, since we have downsized the amount of equipment needed for regattas, it is much quicker because each trolley has its specific load and just needs to be taken down to the lake and unloaded. Most members now know what to do and this helps to make a speedy set up. This time we needed extra tables as we ran out of room, I counted 65 boats in attendance.

It was also nice to meet some new members, one had travelled up from Hastings, and to meet some older ones who we had lost touch with and not re-joined the club, maybe they will join us again in the future.

The good weather meant light winds, not good news for sailing boats, the summer series race did not take place at this regatta and as this was the case at the last regatta, this series will probably be scrubbed this year. The towing, barge pushing and steering competitions did take place as did the club 500 races, we had six starters in this section this time and as they all went off together it made for an exciting time at the first turn buoy. As advertised, we did run the galleon boat race, with the light winds, this took quite a while to get going but eventually three boats did make it over to the near bank, there was no prizes for this little fun race but it does provide an entertaining show. The rest of the day was taken up with free sailing, the park was very busy with visitors and these visitors watched as the models were demonstrated for them. As we packed away, the sun was still shining so no wet gazebo covers to dry out this time, a good regatta.

Biggin Hill Airshow and model boat show, June 14th

We were invited to attend a new event in June, it was a last minute invitation so did not appear in our list of outside events, it was the Biggin Hill Air Show which unusually also included a model boat show. Maidstone Cygnets were the host organisers for the boat side of the show and they erected their portable pool on the site. We were to arrive before 11am as the show started at 12 noon with a full programme of flying displays that included the Red Arrows who were celebrating their 50th year in aerobatic shows. Other aircraft flying were the Avro Lancaster which was taking part in the Queens Birthday flypast down the Mall, Spitfires, Hurricanes and Mustangs and all the other usual aeroplanes normally seen at big air shows.

The model boat clubs there were, the Maidstone Cygnets, Moorhen from Harlow, Capstan MBC, Crowborough MBC, the Happy Modellers boat club, and of course us. We had nineteen members in attendance and with two gazebos full of models, were one of the largest clubs displaying.

The air show was a sell out so the audience at the poolside and at our displays was very well attended, the pool was occupied all day with several models on the water at one time, I cannot remember a time when there was nothing happening there even when the "Reds" were displaying! The weather was also fine for most of the day, we did have a bit of rain during the morning but the afternoon was glorious and very warm. The show did not end until 7.20 so it was a late pack up and with all the thousands of vehicles all trying to exit from the same single route, it was complete chaos. It took an average of an hour and a half to get out of the venue, something that the organisers will need to address if they run the event again next year.

A great day out with our boats and a free full size air display with the world's best aerobatic team, made this show a winner.



OK, they are not boats but so impressive and worthy of inclusion here.

Just some of the team at Biggin Hill

Club Regatta 29th June

A good downpour during the night softened the bird droppings enough to be able to clean the area that we use for our regatta setup. This might seem an odd way to start a report on a regatta but there has been a marked increase in the amount of mess on the pathways lately, I believe it is due to the good weather that we have had over the past few months and that members of the public are still feeding the seagulls which cause most of the problem. I actually witnessed a lady with her children throwing bread into the water exactly where Dave Cowlin was demonstrating his dredger to to another member of the public; the seagulls swooped all around the model ruining Dave's display. Rant over, back to the regatta.

An early start was made and thanks to Neil (Terry) for taking on the erection of the fencing so expertly, we were able to get all the gazebos up and lay out a simplified steering/ towing course in record time again.

Len our scale secretary could not be with us this time so it fell to the other committee members to organise the competition events. Due to only two entrants in the springer tug pushing event, (we need at least three), this was not run but the steering and tug towing did take place
(continued on next page)

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Again there were no organised yacht races this time, it is almost certain that the regatta series of yacht races will be abandoned this season as no races have taken place so far, perhaps the football was the reason that not many of the section turned up. Yachts were on the water however and the spectacular Robbe Smaragd owned by Kim (Belcher) took to the water and sailed very well, a big model cutting through the lake is always impressive, where's the crew Kim?

On the powered craft section Neil has added to his fleet with a very large (1/100th scale) container ship Trien Mearsk, Neil had bought the model from the Leicester area and spent many hours detailing it and adding extras to it making it into an interesting display on and off the water, Derrick (Rudge) had his rowing gunboat out again which is now working well after discovering the fault that had caused problems in the past, he also was sailing his 18th century sloop that always make a lovely picture for the cameras as she passes by with its large white ensign flying.

During the morning it was good to meet some old friends of the club, John Watson has returned to the UK after leaving 10 years ago to live in Spain, he was with another old member Doug Capon who was a committee member some years ago. Both enjoyed chatting to other members and talking model boats again.

We packed up in glorious sunshine and was all stowed away by 5 pm, some had to get home for the football? What is this game that takes members away from model boats?



Top left "Andrea Gale" by Kelvin Castle,

Three pictures of new models seen at the club Regattas.



Top right "Trien Maersk" by Neil Terry,



Bottom Left .. "KM Bismarck" by Dick Sadler.

(A converted 1/200th scale Trumpeter kit full of fine detail. Ed)

Club Regatta July 13th

This was our last regatta for this season, there are still several events that we are holding but the competition side of the regattas are now Completed.

Len will now collate all the results and make a list of the winners. The day was not as good as we had come to expect with light rain and showers for most of the morning but the afternoon saw warm sunshine which was welcome.

We had decided that the galleon boat race would be held again at his regatta and at about 2 pm the wind was in a good position to launch, this time from the north side of our lake.

The models mysteriously split into two groups one set off almost directly across the lake and the others turned and sailed down to the island, never to make it over at all. Thent to ChantryGe photo above shows the two groups and mimicking the boats in the background are seagulls in almost identical positions.

The competition events were all completed by midday in damp breezy conditions, the club 500 races however, faired better as the sun had began to shine by then. Three rounds were raced with five boats in each race. As a first time competitor this season with these models, I must say it is very exciting, it is a pity that we now have to wait until next season to race again.

The rest of the day was, as usual taken up with free sailing until we decided to pack away at about 4 pm.

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This report was received from Kim Belcher, as your editor could not attend the event personally, my thanks are due to him.

Summers Pond

On Sunday 22nd June six members from our Club attended the 2nd Model Show at Summers Ponds, Barns Green, near Horsham West Sussex. They were Peter Cook, Ted Goldring, Len Ochiltree, Kelvin Castle, Dick Church and myself. The Show had been on Saturday too, but for a variety of reasons we could only attend the one day. And what a day. This was a multi-discipline show and was spread over a large area. We all had a great day sailing our boats on the long thin pond just in front of our stand. There were seventeen other model boat clubs present – including the Portsmouth Model Boat Display Team who gave a great WW2 Convoy Scenario display. Some 1,200 people visited the Show and the organisation and facilities were superb. A definite visit should be made next year – maybe for the two days. Our grateful thanks to Kelvin for organising our visit as a Club – everyone seemed very pleased – and the gazebos gave us and our models a professional look and some needed shade!

This explosive shot with the clubs gazebo's in the background gives an impression of how big this event was, The Portsmouth Display Team are always well received as the amount of spectators in the left hand picture shows.



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Chantry (Bluewater) Club Open event.

Adrian Knight sent me this information. Again thanks to him for sending me this report

A small group of us went to Bluewater and had a very enjoyable day.

The Mearsk Trien of Neil Terry is featured in this photo which shows our stand at Chantry off very well. Dick Sadler is carefully controlling his model in the shade, whilst Mark is getting his boat ready. The cargo vessel attracted much interest from the modellers at Chantry. This model will no doubt feature many times in future articles.



The Deal ATC Fun Day. 2nd Aug. This was a follow on event that we as a club were invited to last year, that event was held on Walmer Green. Due to many problems, this time it was eventually held at Mongeham village hall. The dates changed many times and it is commendable that our membership rallied and put on a display which was appreciated by the organisers. It is promised to be bigger and better next year and judging by the comments, the MBA will feature highly again next time. Thanks to all our members who attended.

Kearsney Kapers 2014 August 7th .

This is our flagship event of the year and our chance to say thank to all the other model boat clubs in our area, I do once again thank Kim for sending this report as again I was unable to attend.

The Kearsney Kapers Open Day Regatta on Sunday 3rd August had some key members away with other commitments, but there was still a great Club membership attendance and the Regatta was supported by Tugs-R-Us and members from Capstan, Heron, Cygnets and Ramsgate Viking MBCs. Some of our members were there at 7am to start setting up and a few others a little later. Models of note were from Derek Rudge [and Barbara!] with a good selection of his legendary mechanised and novel models. Also Neil Terry and his Trein Maersk container ship – along with nine other models – a travelling show on his own! Dick Sadler had his 1/10th scale Robbe Smaragd and I had mine two, it was nice to see these large yachts sailing together. Reg Steel had his much converted and reclaimed Fairwind yacht on the water for most of the day. A good time was had and a fair number of the public visiting the Park came down during the afternoon to have a look at our models. Tugs-R-Us members seemed to very much enjoy negotiating the harbour area set-up by Len Ochiltree. Our Chairman, Peter, started the day with a welcome to all over the PA system and also thanked the small team that took down the enclosure and stored the gazebos and equipment at the end of the day. This was a good display of the hobby we so much enjoy.

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At the Club meeting a few days after the event, I learnt that free sailing operated all day and everyone had a really good time, a raffle was held which helped boost club funds and with superb weather, this made our open event a great success.

Pictured right is a nice general shot of the event, unusually taken from the far side of the lake by Kim.

